

-6-

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 23, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 8-11 and 13-20 were rejected. Claim 6 was objected to but indicated as being of allowable subject matter. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. With this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 13 and 20 are amended and claims 5-7, 16 and 19 are canceled. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 1-4, 8-15, 17-18 and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-5, 9-11 and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Munninghoff et al. (U.S. 6,600,625). In addition, claims 1-5, 8-11 and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Severson (U.S. 6,549,365). Independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include features related to claims 5, 6 and 16. Claim 6 was indicated as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 5, 6 and 16 have been canceled. Independent claim 19 has also been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable over the cited references and therefore claims 2-4, 8-11 and 14-18, which depend on allowable base claims 1 and 13, are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Munninghoff et al. or Severson. In addition, claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. Claim 20 has been amended to eliminate the language "non-continuous". It is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is in condition for allowance as being definite as well as in condition for allowance over the cited references. Claim 20 depends from allowable independent claim 13 and the cited reference fail to teach or suggest a circular inner circumference and a circular outer circumference.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims 1-4, 8-15, 17-18 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Although withdrawn claim 7 has been canceled, withdrawn claim 12 remains as pending and is now allowable as depending on an allowable generic claim. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

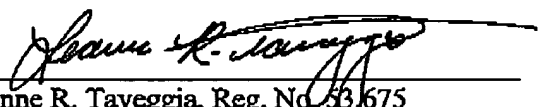
-7-

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By:

  
Leanne R. Taveggia, Reg. No. 53,675  
Suite 1400 - International Centre  
900 Second Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3244  
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

LRT/jme